Intelligence Information Cable

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PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES ORR SECDEF JCS NAVY AIR ARMY EXO affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage of revelation of much in any manner to a finauthorized person, prohibited by land THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. 1.5(e) 15 18 28 Z -N-T-1-A-L C-0-N-F-17 MAY 1966 3.4(b)(1)DIST COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM 15-16 MAY 1966 DOI PRESENCE OF DANANG MAYOR NGUYEN VAN MAN AND STRUGGLE LBJ LIBRARY SUBJECT Mandatory Review MOVEMENT LEADERS IN HIDING AT TINH HOI PAGODA IN DANANG Case # NLJ 93-68 Document #_139 VIETNAM, SAIGON (16 MAY 1966) FIELD NO. ACQ SOURCE 1.5(c) 3.4(b)(1)

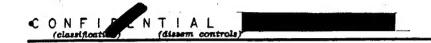
1. (SUMMARY. THE PRINCIPAL REFUGE OF STRUGGLE MOVEMENT LEADERS
IN DANANG IS THE TINH HO! PAGODA, WHERE DANANG MAYOR NGUYEN VAN MAN,
STRUGGLE MOVEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLITICAL ADVISOR TRAN DUY TAM,
AND I CORPS COMMANDER OF ARMY ENGINEERS MAJOR TRAI WERE IN HIDING ON
THE MORNING OF 16 MAY 1966. FOR A TIME THOSE IN HIDING AT THE PAGODA
HOPED FOR MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS FROM HUE AND HO! AN, BUT THE
REINFORCING COLUMNS WERE BLOCKED ON THE HIGHWAY AND FORCED TO TURN
BACK. IT IS NOW BEING RUMORED THAT MAYOR MAN AND TAM MAY TRY TO
MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRENCH CONSULATE AND SEEK ASYLUM THERE. MONKS AND

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BUDDHIST YOUTH ASSEMBLED AT THE PAGODA ARE ENGAGING IN A SORT OF SIT-IN DEMONSTRATION WHICH MAY DEVELOP INTO A HUNGER STRIKE.)

- 2. AFTER GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) MARINES ARRIVED IN DANANG ON 15 MAY 1966 SOME MEMBERSCOF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT TOOK REFUGE IN PHO DA AND TINH HOI PAGODAS, MANY WENT INTO HIDING ELSEWHERE IN DANANG CITY, AND OTHERS TOOK REFUGE IN DANANG EAST, ACROSS THE SONG DA RIVER, FROM WHERE THEY HOPE TO REACH A VIET CONG SAFE AREA IN THE VICINITY OF MARBLE MOUNTAIN.
- 3. THE PRECISE STATUS OF PHO DA PAGODA IS NOT CLEAR.

 WHEN THE MARINES SOUGHT TO SEIZE IT ON 15 MAY, MONKS PUT IN AN

 APPEARANCE AND WENT ABOUT THEIR NORMAL ROUTINE, AND AS A RESULT

 THE MARINES DID NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY THE PAGODA. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER

 ANY ADHERENTS OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT REMAINED IN THE PAGODA ON

 16 MAY.
- 4. TINH HOI PAGODA IS THE PRINCIPAL REFUGE OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT MEMBERS. DANANG MAYOR NGUYEN VAN MAN, STRUGGLE MOVEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLITICAL ADVISOR TRAN DUY TAM, AND COMMANDER OF THE ARMY ENGINEERS MAJOR TRAI WERE AT TINH HOI ON THE MORNING OF 16 MAY, AND HA XUAN KY AND THE ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE THERE. MONKS AND BUDDHIST YOUTH HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO THE PAGODA, WHERE THEY ARE ENGAGING IN A

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SORT OF SIT-IN DEMONSTRATION WHICH MAY DEVELOP INTO A HUNGER STRIKE.

(SOURCE COMMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACTION IS NOT CLEAR, BUT THEIR

PRESENCE MAY BE DESIGNED TO DETER MARINES FROM ATTACKING OR FORCIBLY

ENTERING THE PAGODA.)

5. FOR A TIME THOSE INSIDE TINH HOI PAGODA HOPED TO RECEIVE MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS FROM HUE AND HOI AN, BUT IN EACH CASE THE REINFORCING COLUMNS WERE BLOCKED ON THE HIGHWAY AND FORCED TO TURN BACK. IT IS NOW BEING RUMORED THAT MAYOR MAN AND TAM MAY TRY TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRENCH CONSULATE AND SEEK ASYLUM THERE.

IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE MARINES WOULD PREVENT

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MAN AND TAM FROM GOING TO THE FRENCH CONSULATE, AS THE MARINES'
DUTIES ARE PRIMARILY MILITARY ONES AND THERE IS AT PRESENT NO

EFFECTIVE POLICE FORCE ON DUTY. A FEW STRUGGLE MOVEMENT LEADERS

HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ORDERS HAVE BEEN

ISSUED TO ARREST ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OR WHICH GVN SECURITY

SERVICES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SUCH ARRESTS. IT IS DOUBTFUL

THAT THE MARINES HAVE BEEN GIVEN ARREST LISTS OR HAVE ESTABLISHED

CHECKPOINTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCREENING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. THUS

THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT MAN AND TAM MIGHT BE PERMITTED

TO ENTER THE FRENCH CONSULATE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.)

6. FIELD DISSEM. STATE USAID USMACV JUSPAO NAVFOR V USARV.
7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.
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